

Package ‘extremevalues’

July 22, 2025

Description Detect outliers in one-dimensional data.

Version 2.4.1

Title Univariate Outlier Detection

Maintainer Mark van der Loo <mark.vanderloo@gmail.com>

Depends R (>= 2.8.0)

Imports utils, stats, graphics

License GPL-2

URL <https://github.com/markvanderloo/extremevalues>

Repository CRAN

NeedsCompilation no

Author Mark van der Loo [cre, aut] (ORCID:
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9807-4686>)

Date/Publication 2024-12-17 11:10:02 UTC

Contents

extremevalues	2
getOutliers	2
invErf	4
outlierPlot	5
pareto	6
Index	8

 extremevalues

An R package for outlier detection

Description

This package offers outlier detection and plot functions for univariate data.

The package is the implementation of the outlier detection methods introduced in the reference below. Briefly, the methods work as follows. Using a subset of the data, the parameters for a model distribution are estimated using regression of the sorted data on their QQ-plot positions.

A value in the data is an outlier when it is unlikely to be drawn from the estimated distribution. There are two methods to determine the "unlikelyness". The first, called "Method I", determines the value above which less than ρ observations are expected, given the total number of observations in the data. Here ρ is a parameter which should have a value of 1 or less. The second notion of unlikelyness uses the fit residuals. Extremely large or small values are outliers when their residuals are above or below a confidence limit α , to be determined by the user.

References

M.P.J. van der Loo, Distribution based outlier detection for univariate data. Discussion paper 10003, Statistics Netherlands, The Hague (2010). Available from www.markvanderloo.eu or www.cbs.nl.

See Also

[getOutliers](#), [outlierPlot](#)

 getOutliers

Detect outliers

Description

getOutliers is a wrapper function for getOutliersI and getOutliersII.

Usage

```
getOutliers(y, method="I", ...)
getOutliersI(y, rho=c(1,1), FLim=c(0.1,0.9), distribution="normal")
getOutliersII(y, alpha=c(0.05, 0.05), FLim=c(0.1, 0.9),
  distribution="normal", returnResiduals=TRUE)
```

Arguments

y	Vector of one-dimensional nonnegative data
method	"I" or "II"
...	Optional arguments to be passed to getOutliersI or getOutliersII
distribution	Model distribution used to estimate the limit. Choose from "lognormal", "exponential", "pareto", "weibull" or "normal" (default).
FLim	c(Fmin,Fmax) quantile limits indicating which data should be used to fit the model distribution. Must obey $0 < Fmin < Fmax < 1$.
rho	(Method I) A value y_i is an outlier if it is below (above) the limit where less then rho[2] (rho[1]) observations are expected. Must be >0 .
alpha	(Method II) A value y_i is an outlier if it has a residual below (above) the alpha[1] (alpha[2]) confidence limit for the residues. Must be between 0 and 1.
returnResiduals	(Method II) Whether or not to return a vector of residuals from the fit

Details

Both methods use the subset of y -values between the Fmin and Fmax quantiles to fit a model cumulative density distribution. **Method I** detects outliers by checking which are below (above) the limit where according to the model distribution less then rho[1] (rho[2]) observations are expected (given length(y) observations). **Method II** detects outliers by finding the observations (not used in the fit) who's fit residuals are below (above) the estimated confidence limit alpha[1] (alpha[2]) while all lower (higher) observations are outliers too.

Value

nOut	Number of left and right outliers.
iLeft	Index vector indicating left outliers in y
iRight	Index vector indicating right outliers in y
limit	For Method I : y-values below (above) limit[1] (limit[2]) are outliers. For Method II : elements with residuals below (above) limit[1] (limit[2]) are outliers if all smaller (larger) elements are outliers as well.
method	The used method: "method I" or "method II"
distribution	The used model distribution
Fmin	FLim[1]
Fmax	FLim[2]
yMin	Smallest y-value used in fit
yMax	Largest y-value used in fit
Nfit	Number of values used in the fit
rho	Method I , the input rho-values for left and right outliers
alphaConf	Method II , the input confidence levels for left and right outliers

R2	R-squared value for the fit. Note that this is the <i>ordinary least squares</i> value, defined by $R^2 = 1 - SS_{err}/SS_y$. Where SS_{err} is the squared sum of residuals. For the lognormal, Pareto and Weibull models, the y -variable is transformed before fitting. Since predicted values are transformed back before calculating SS_{err} , this R^2 can be negative.
lambda	(exponential distribution) Estimated location (and spread) parameter for $f(y) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda y)$
mu	(lognormal distribution) Estimated $E(\ln(y))$ for lognormal distribution
sigma	(lognormal distribution) Estimated $Var(\ln(y))$ for lognormal distribution
ym	(pareto distribution) Estimated location parameter (mode) for pareto distribution
alpha	(pareto distribution) Estimated spread parameter for pareto distribution
k	(weibull distribution) estimated shape parameter k for weibull distribution
lambda	(weibull distribution) estimated scale parameter λ for weibull distribution
mu	(normal distribution) Estimated $E(y)$ for normal distribution
sigma	(normal distribution) Estimated $Var(y)$ for normal distribution

Author(s)

Mark van der Loo, see www.markvanderloo.eu

References

M.P.J. van der Loo, Distribution based outlier detection for univariate data. Discussion paper 10003, Statistics Netherlands, The Hague. Available from www.markvanderloo.eu or www.cbs.nl.

The file <your R directory>/R-<version>/library/extremevalues/extremevalues.pdf contains a worked example. It can also be downloaded from my website.

Examples

```
y <- rlnorm(100)
y <- c(0.1*min(y), y, 10*max(y))
K <- getOutliers(y, method="I", distribution="lognormal")
L <- getOutliers(y, method="II", distribution="lognormal")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
outlierPlot(y,K, mode="qq")
outlierPlot(y,L, mode="residual")
```

invErf

Inverse error function

Description

Inverse error function

Usage

```
invErf(x)
```

Arguments

x (Vector of) real value(s) in the range (-1,1)

Value

(vector of) value(s) of the inverse error function

Author(s)

Mark van der Loo, www.markvanderloo.eu

Examples

```
x <-seq(-0.99,0.99,0.01);
plot(x,invErf(x),'l');
```

outlierPlot

Plot results of outlierdetection

Description

This is a wrapper for two plot functions which can be used to analyse the results of outlier detection with the extremevalues package.

Usage

```
outlierPlot(y, L, mode="qq", ...)
qqFitPlot(y, L, title=NA, xlab=NA, ylab=NA, fat=FALSE)
plotMethodII(y, L, title=NA, xlab=NA, ylab=NA, fat=FALSE)
```

Arguments

y	A vector of values
L	The result of <code>L <- getOutliers(y,...)</code>
mode	Plot type. "qq" for Quantile-quantile plot with indicated outliers, "residual" for plot of fit residuals with indicated outliers (Method II only)
...	Optional arguments, to be transferred to qqFitPlot or plotMethodII (see below)
title	A custom title (must be a string)
xlab	A custom label for the x-axis (must be a string)
ylab	A custom label for the y-axis (must be a string)
fat	If TRUE, axis, fonts, labels, points and lines are thicker for export and publication

Details

Outliers are marked with a color or special symbol. If **mode="qq"**: observed against predicted y-values are plotted. Points between vertical lines were used in the fit. If `L$method="Method I"`, horizontal lines indicate the limits below (above) which observations are outliers. **mode="residuals"** only works when `L$Method="Method II"`. It generates a residual plot where points between two vertical lines were used in the fit. Horizontal lines indicate the computed confidence limits. The outermost points in the gray areas are outliers.

Author(s)

Mark van der Loo, www.markvanderloo.eu

References

The file `<your R directory>/R-<version>/library/extremevalues/extremevalues.pdf` contains a worked example. It can also be downloaded from my website.

Examples

```
y <- rlnorm(100)
y <- c(0.1*min(y),y,10*max(y))
K <- getOutliers(y,method="I",distribution="lognormal")
L <- getOutliers(y,method="II",distribution="lognormal")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
outlierPlot(y,K,mode="qq")
outlierPlot(y,L,mode="residual")
```

pareto

Pareto distribution

Description

Pareto density distribution, quantile function and random generator.

Usage

```
dpareto(x, xm=1, alpha=1)
qpareto(p, xm=1, alpha=1)
rpareto(n, xm=1, alpha=1)
```

Arguments

<code>xm</code>	location parameter (mode of distribution)
<code>alpha</code>	spread parameter
<code>x</code>	Vector of realizations
<code>p</code>	Vector of probabilities
<code>n</code>	number of samples to draw

Value

dpareto	Probability density
qpareto	Quantile at probability p (inverse cdf)
rpairoto	Random value

Author(s)

Mark van der Loo www.markvanderloo.eu

Examples

```
q <- qpareto(0.5);
```

Index

`dpareto (pareto)`, [6](#)

`extremevalues`, [2](#)

`extremevalues-package (extremevalues)`, [2](#)

`getOutliers`, [2](#), [2](#)

`getOutliersI (getOutliers)`, [2](#)

`getOutliersII (getOutliers)`, [2](#)

`invErf`, [4](#)

`outlierPlot`, [2](#), [5](#)

`pareto`, [6](#)

`plotMethodII (outlierPlot)`, [5](#)

`qpareto (pareto)`, [6](#)

`qqFitPlot (outlierPlot)`, [5](#)

`rpareto (pareto)`, [6](#)